up of Large Tax Payer Units (LTUs) to provide single window facility to large taxpayers paying excise duty, corporate/income tax and service tax. The total number of entities who are eligible to join the LTUs is 843.

(b) Response from the eligible entities with regard to their decision to join the LTUs is awaited.

(c) Government has decided that initially LTUs will be set up at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore.

(d) At present there is no such proposal.

(e) Not applicable, in view of reply to (d) above.

**Interest on external debt**

222. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's external debt increased by 1.8 per cent ($2.2 billion) to $124.30 billion in the first six months of the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there was a decline in debt taken from agencies like World Bank, ADB and IMF;

(d) if so, the details of such debts taken during the last two years from each agency;

(e) the interest paid to each organization during the last two years; and

(f) the interest to be paid for the remaining term to each agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) India's total external debt rose by US$2.2 billion or 1.8 per cent o US$124.3 billion as at the end of September, 2005 from US$122.1 billion at end-June 2005. However, as compared to end-March 2005, the stock of external debt at end September, 2005 showed a smaller rise of 0.9 per cent or US$1.05 billion. Details of India's external debt outstanding as at end-September, 2005 are given in Table 1 below. The reasons for rise in external debt were mainly increase in commercial borrowings due to benign conditions in international capital markets and surge inshort term debt reflecting buoyant import demand.

**Table 1 : India's External Debt**

(US $ million)

| Item | Debt Outstanding As at the end of | | Variation | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | March 2005 (R) | September 2005(QE) | Absolute (3-2) | Percent (3 over 2) |
| 1. Multilateral | 31,656 | 31,401 | -225 | -0.8 |
| 2. Bilateral | 16,938 | 15,883 | -1,055 | -6.2 |
| 3. IMF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Export credit | 4,972 | 5,290 | 318 | 6.4 |
| 5. Commercial borrowings | 27,144 | 28,527 | 1,383 | 5.1 |
| 6. NRI Deposits (long-term) | 32,743 | 32,802 | 59 | 0.2 |
| 7. Rupee debt | 2,301 | 2,120 | -181 | -7.9 |
| 8. Long-term debt (1 to 7) | 115,754 | 116,023 | 269 | 0.3 |
| 9. Short-term debt | 7,524 | 8,303 | 779 | 10.4 |
| 10. Total debt (8+9) | 123,278 | 124,326 | 1,048 | 0.9 |

R: Revised QE: Quick Estimates

(c) and (d) No. Sir. Details of external debt raised by the Government from the World Bank, ADB and IMF during the last two years are furnished in Table 2 below:

**Table 2: Debt Disbursement (On Government account)**

(US $ million)

| | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. World Bank (I+II) | 1,711 | (224) | 1,797 | (86) |
| I. IBRD | 782 | (192) | 745 | (-37) |
| II. IDA | 929 | (32) | 1,052 | (123) |
| B. ADB | 493 | (153) | 422 | (-71) |
| C. IMF | 0 | | 0 | |
| Total (A+B+C) | 2,204 | (377) | 2,219 | (15) |

Note: Figures in brackets indicate change over the year.

(e) and (f) Details of interest paid to World Bank, ADB and IMF for last two years as well as projections of interest to be paid for the remaining term of each agency are given below in Table 3:—

**Table 3: Interest Payments (on Govt. account)**

(US $ million)

| | 2003-04 (Acutals) | 2004-05 (Actuals) | interest to be paid for the remaining term (Projections)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. World Bank (I+II) | 174 | 100 | 3,122 |
| I. IBRD | 132 | 60 | 573 |
| II. IDA | 42 | 40 | 2549 |
| B. ADB | 65 | 28 | 286 |
| C. IMF | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL (A+B+C) | 239 | 128 | 3,408 |

* calculated on outstanding debt at end-March, 2005. Future disbursements are not taken into account. In case of variable interest loans, existing rates are used.

**Rural credit**

223. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural credit flows; target and achievements, since 2002-03, year-wise;

(b) the number of borrowers availed of rural credit in these years, State-wise;

(c) whether, as per extant rules, private banks must open one-fourth of their total branches in rural and semi-urban areas;

(d) if so, the details of branches and kiosks set up by private banks and PSU banks in rural areas since May, 2004, State-wise;

(e) whether all private banks have complied with the requirement as mentioned in part (c) above;

(f) if not, the details of banks who failed to comply; and

(g) the details of steps taken, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per guidelines of Reserve Bank